

On Talagrand's Admissible Net Approach to Majorizing Measures and Boundedness of Stochastic Processes

by

Witold BEDNORZ

Presented by Stanisław KWAPIEŃ

Summary. We show that the main result of [1] on sufficiency of existence of a majorizing measure for boundedness of a stochastic process can be naturally split in two theorems, each of independent interest. The first is that the existence of a majorizing measure is sufficient for the existence of a sequence of admissible nets (as recently introduced by Talagrand [5]), and the second that the existence of a sequence of admissible nets is sufficient for sample boundedness of a stochastic process with bounded increments.

1. Introduction. Let (T, d) be a compact metric space, and let $\varphi : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be a *Young function*, i.e. convex, increasing, continuous and such that $\varphi(0) = 0$. We say that a stochastic process $X(t)$, $t \in T$, has *bounded increments* if

$$(1) \quad \mathbf{E}\varphi\left(\frac{|X(s) - X(t)|}{d(s, t)}\right) \leq 1 \quad \text{for } s, t \in T,$$

Without losing generality one can assume that φ is normalized, i.e. $\varphi(1) = 1$. Note that under (1) there exists a separable modification of $X(t)$, $t \in T$, which we always refer to when considering a process with bounded increments.

We say that a Borel probability measure m on (T, d) is *majorizing* if

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{M}(m, \varphi) := \sup_{t \in T} \int_0^{D(t, T)} \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))}\right) d\varepsilon < \infty,$$

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and *weakly majorizing* if

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}(m, \varphi) := \int_T \int_0^{D(t, T)} \varphi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))} \right) d\varepsilon m(dt) < \infty,$$

where $B(t, \varepsilon) := \{s \in T : d(s, t) \leq \varepsilon\}$ and $D(t, T) := \sup\{d(s, t) : s \in T\}$. The concept of majorizing measure was introduced by Fernique [2] for the purpose of proving boundedness of stochastic processes. For the historical background on the sample boundedness of stochastic processes under the bounded increment assumption we refer to [2], [3] and [5]. The following theorem proved in [1] is a generalization of Fernique's result as well as Talagrand's:

THEOREM 1. *If φ is a Young function and m a majorizing measure on T then, for each separable stochastic process $X(t)$, $t \in T$, which satisfies (1),*

$$\mathbf{E} \sup_{s, t \in T} |X(s) - X(t)| \leq 32\mathcal{M}(m, \varphi).$$

In this paper we pursue a new approach to Theorem 2 using the language of admissible nets (cf. Definition 1.2.3 in [3]). Below we give a definition of admissible nets suitable for our purposes. Let $(N_k)_{k \geq 0}$ be a sequence of positive reals such that $N_0 = 1$ and

$$(3) \quad c\varphi^{-1}(N_k) \leq \varphi^{-1}(N_{k+1}) \leq C\varphi^{-1}(N_k) \quad \text{for } k \geq 1,$$

where $2 < c \leq C$ (the usual choice is $N_k := \varphi(R^k)$, where $R > 2$). We will say that $\mathcal{T} := (T_k)_{k \geq 0}$ is an *admissible sequence of nets* if $|T_k| \leq N_k$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{T}, \varphi) &:= \sup_{u \in T} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) < \infty, \\ \overline{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{T}, \varphi) &:= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{u \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1 can be obtained as a corollary of the following two theorems, which are of independent interest:

THEOREM 2. *For each sequence of admissible nets $\mathcal{T} = (T_k)_{k \geq 0}$ and any stochastic process $X(t)$, $t \in T$, satisfying (1),*

$$(4) \quad \mathbf{E} \sup_{s, t \in T} |X(s) - X(t)| \leq \frac{4cC}{c-2} \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{T}, \varphi) + 2C\overline{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{T}, \varphi).$$

THEOREM 3. *If (T, d) admits a majorizing measure m then there exists a sequence of nets $\mathcal{T} = (T_k)_{k \geq 0}$ such that $|T_k| \leq N_k$ for $k \geq 0$ and*

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{T}, \varphi) \leq \frac{4c}{c-1} \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{T}, \varphi), \quad \overline{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{T}, \varphi) \leq \frac{4c}{c-1} \overline{\mathcal{M}}(m, \varphi).$$

Indeed, since clearly $\overline{\mathcal{M}}(m, \varphi) \leq \mathcal{M}(m, \varphi)$, Theorems 2 and 3 show that the existence of a majorizing measure implies the sample boundedness of any stochastic process with bounded increments, so in this way we reprove Theorem 1.

2. Sample boundedness via admissible nets. Let $\pi_k(t)$ be any point in T_k which satisfies $d(t, T_k) = d(t, \pi_k(t))$, i.e. a point in T_k closest to t .

Proof of Theorem 2. Fix $l \geq 0$ and $t \in T$. Clearly one may assume that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} d(t, T_k) = 0$ since otherwise the right hand side in (4) is infinite and there is nothing to prove. We define $t_l = \pi_l(t)$ and by reverse induction, $t_k = \pi_k(t_{k+1})$. By the chain argument we obtain

$$(5) \quad |f(t_l) - f(t_0)| \leq \sum_{j=0}^{l-1} |f(t_j) - f(t_{j+1})|.$$

For all Young functions φ we clearly have

$$(6) \quad \frac{x}{y} \leq 1 + \frac{\varphi(x)}{\varphi(y)}, \quad x, y > 0.$$

Setting $x = |f(t_j) - f(t_{j+1})|/d(t_j, t_{j+1})$ and $y = \varphi^{-1}(N_{j+1})$ in (6), we derive that

$$\frac{|f(t_j) - f(t_{j+1})|}{d(t_j, t_{j+1})\varphi^{-1}(N_{j+1})} \leq 1 + \frac{1}{N_{j+1}} \varphi\left(\frac{|f(t_j) - f(t_{j+1})|}{d(t_j, t_{j+1})}\right).$$

Since by (3) we have $\varphi^{-1}(N_{j+1}) \leq C\varphi^{-1}(N_j)$, we can see that

$$|f(t_j) - f(t_{j+1})| \leq Cd(t_j, t_{j+1})\varphi^{-1}(N_j) \left(1 + \frac{1}{N_{j+1}} \varphi\left(\frac{|f(t_j) - f(t_{j+1})|}{d(t_j, t_{j+1})}\right)\right).$$

This implies that

$$(7) \quad |f(t_l) - f(t_0)| \leq C \sum_{j=0}^{l-1} d(t_j, t_{j+1})\varphi^{-1}(N_j) + C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{u \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(u, T_k)\varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \varphi\left(\frac{|f(u) - f(\pi_k(u))|}{d(u, \pi_k(u))}\right).$$

LEMMA 1. *The following inequality holds:*

$$\sum_{j=0}^{l-1} d(t_j, t_{j+1})\varphi^{-1}(N_j) \leq \frac{2c}{c-2} \sum_{k=0}^l d(t, \pi_k(t))\varphi^{-1}(N_k).$$

Proof. We first show that for each $0 \leq j \leq l$ we have

$$(8) \quad d(t, t_j)\varphi^{-1}(N_j) \leq \sum_{k=j}^l \left(\frac{2}{c}\right)^{j-k} d(t, T_k)\varphi^{-1}(N_k),$$

where c is the constant in (3). The proof goes by reverse induction. The case $j = l$ is trivial, so we may assume that

$$(9) \quad d(t, t_{j+1})\varphi^{-1}(N_{j+1}) \leq \sum_{k=j+1}^l \left(\frac{2}{c}\right)^{j+1-k} d(t, T_k)\varphi^{-1}(N_k).$$

Note that the definition of π_j implies that

$$d(t_j, t_{j+1}) = d(\pi_j(t_{j+1}), t_{j+1}) \leq d(\pi_j(t), t_{j+1}) \leq d(t, \pi_j(t)) + d(t, t_{j+1}),$$

which combined with $d(t, t_j) \leq d(t, t_{j+1}) + d(t_j, t_{j+1})$ results in

$$d(t, t_j) \leq d(t, \pi_j(t)) + 2d(t, t_{j+1}).$$

From (3) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} d(t, t_j)\varphi^{-1}(N_j) &\leq (d(t, \pi_j(t)) + 2d(t, \pi_{j+1}(t)))\varphi^{-1}(N_j) \\ &\leq d(t, \pi_j(t))\varphi^{-1}(N_j) + \frac{2}{c} d(t, \pi_{j+1}(t))\varphi^{-1}(N_{j+1}). \end{aligned}$$

The induction assumption (9) now yields (8). We finish the proof of the lemma by first checking that

$$(10) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{l-1} d(t_j, t_{j+1})\varphi^{-1}(N_j) \leq 2 \sum_{j=0}^l d(t, t_j)\varphi^{-1}(N_j)$$

and then applying (8) so that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^l d(t, t_j)\varphi^{-1}(N_j) &\leq \sum_{j=0}^l \left(\sum_{k=j}^l \left(\frac{c}{2}\right)^{j-k} d(t, \pi_k(t))\varphi^{-1}(N_k) \right) \\ &\leq \sum_{k=0}^l \left(\sum_{j=k}^l \left(\frac{c}{2}\right)^{j-k} \right) d(t, \pi_k(t))\varphi^{-1}(N_k) \\ &\leq \frac{c}{c-2} \sum_{k=0}^l d(t, \pi_k(t))\varphi^{-1}(N_k). \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

We use (7) and Lemma 1 to show that

$$\begin{aligned} |f(t_l) - f(t_0)| &\leq \frac{2cC}{c-2} \sum_{k=0}^l d(t, T_k)\varphi^{-1}(N_k) \\ &\quad + C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{u \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(u, T_k)\varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \varphi \left(\frac{|f(u) - f(\pi_k(u))|}{d(u, \pi_k(u))} \right). \end{aligned}$$

From the property $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} d(t, T_k) = 0$ we deduce that

$$|f(t) - f(t_0)| \leq \frac{4cC}{c-2} \sup_{u \in T} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) + 2C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{u \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \varphi \left(\frac{|f(u) - f(\pi_k(u))|}{d(u, \pi_k(u))} \right).$$

Since $t_0 = \pi_0(T)$ is the only point in T_0 which does not depend on t , it is clear that for any $s, t \in T$ we have

$$(11) \quad |f(s) - f(t)| \leq \frac{4cC}{c-2} \sup_{u \in T} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) + 2C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{u \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \varphi \left(\frac{|f(u) - f(\pi_k(u))|}{d(u, \pi_k(u))} \right).$$

Having thus established the result for any continuous functions f on (T, d) we turn to its stochastic version. By a standard argument (see Theorem 2.3 of [3] or Theorem 3.1 of [1]) it suffices to prove Theorem 2 for processes with a.s. Lipschitz samples (with respect to d). By the Fubini theorem and (1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} \sup_{s, t \in T} |X(s) - X(t)| &\leq \frac{4cC}{c-2} \sup_{u \in T} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) \\ &\quad + 2C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{u \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \mathbf{E} \varphi \left(\frac{|f(u) - f(\pi_k(u))|}{d(u, \pi_k(u))} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{4cC}{c-2} \sup_{u \in T} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) + 2C \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{u \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(u, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}}. \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

3. Construction of a sequence of admissible nets. We describe how to construct a sequence of admissible nets when we have a majorizing measure m on (T, d) (thus in particular $\text{supp}(m) = T$). Let

$$r_k(t) := \inf \{ \varepsilon > 0 : m(B(t, \varepsilon)) \geq 1/N_k \},$$

where $(N_k)_{k \geq 0}$ satisfies (3). Clearly $m(B(t, r_k(t))) \geq 1/N_k$ and $r_0(t) \leq D(t, T)$. In [1] two simple properties of r_k are given; we repeat their proofs for completeness.

LEMMA 2. *The functions r_k , $k \geq 0$, are 1-Lipschitz for all $t \in T$.*

Proof. A geometrical argument shows that

$$B(s, r_k(t) + d(s, t)) \supset B(t, r_k(t)),$$

and consequently $m(B(s, r_k(t) + d(s, t))) \geq 1/N_k$. Hence $r_k(s) \leq r_k(t) + d(s, t)$ and similarly $r_k(t) \leq r_k(s) + d(s, t)$, which implies that r_k is 1-Lipschitz. ■

LEMMA 3. For each $0 \leq \delta \leq D(t, T)$ we have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \min\{r_k(t), \delta\} \varphi^{-1}(N_k) \leq \frac{c}{c-1} \int_0^{\delta} \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))}\right) d\varepsilon.$$

Proof. Observe that there exists $k_0 \geq 0$ such that $r_{k_0+1}(t) < \delta \leq r_{k_0}(t)$. Clearly

$$\int_{r_{k_0+1}(t)}^{r_{k_0}(t)} \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))}\right) d\varepsilon \geq (r_{k_0}(t) - r_{k_0+1}(t)) \varphi^{-1}(N_{k_0}),$$

and in the same way we show that

$$\int_{r_{k_0+1}(t)}^{\delta} \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))}\right) d\varepsilon \geq (\delta - r_{k_0+1}(t)) \varphi^{-1}(N_{k_0}).$$

Thus using (3) we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{\delta} \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))}\right) d\varepsilon \\ & \geq \sum_{k=k_0+1}^{\infty} (r_k(t) - r_{k+1}(t)) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) + (\delta - r_{k_0+1}(t)) \varphi^{-1}(N_{k_0}) \\ & \geq \sum_{k=k_0+1}^{\infty} r_k(t) (\varphi^{-1}(N_k) - \varphi^{-1}(N_{k-1})) + \delta \varphi^{-1}(N_{k_0}) \\ & \geq \frac{c-1}{c} \sum_{k=k_0+1}^{\infty} r_k(t) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) + \delta \varphi^{-1}(N_{k_0}). \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\sum_{k=0}^{k_0} \varphi^{-1}(N_k) \leq \sum_{k=0}^{k_0} c^{-k} \varphi^{-1}(N_{k_0}) \leq \frac{c}{c-1} \varphi^{-1}(N_{k_0})$$

we finally obtain

$$\int_0^{\delta} \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))}\right) d\varepsilon \geq \frac{c-1}{c} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \min\{r_k(t), \delta\} \varphi^{-1}(N_k). \quad \blacksquare$$

The construction of a sequence of admissible nets $\mathcal{T} = (T_k)_{k \geq 0}$, assuming the existence of a majorizing measure, is based on the following intermediate result:

THEOREM 4. *There exists a sequence of nets $\mathcal{T} = (T_k)_{k \geq 0}$, $T_k \subset T$, that satisfies the following conditions:*

1. $|T_0| = 1$, $|T_k| \leq N_k$;
2. $B(t, r_k(t))$ are disjoint for $t \in T_k$;
3. for each $t \in T$ we have $d(t, T_k) \leq 4r_k(t)$;
4. $r_k(t) \leq 2r_k(x)$ for each $t \in T_k$ and $x \in B(t, r_k(t))$.

Proof. Fix $k \geq 0$. We define t_1 as a minimum point of r_k , that is, $r_k(t_1) = \inf_{t \in T} r_k(t)$ (we use the fact that (T, d) is compact). Then we define an open subset A_1 in T by

$$A_1 := \{s \in T : 2(r_k(s) + r_k(t_1)) > d(s, t_1)\}.$$

Suppose we have constructed points t_1, \dots, t_l and open sets A_1, \dots, A_l . If $T \setminus \bigcup_{j=1}^l A_j$ is non-empty, then we define t_{l+1} as a minimum point of r_k on this set (which is again compact), and set

$$A_{l+1} := \{s \in T : 2(r_k(s) + r_k(t_{l+1})) > d(s, t_{l+1})\}.$$

Note that by the definition $d(t_j, t_l) \geq 2(r_k(t_j) + r_k(t_l))$ if $j \neq l$, and hence $B(t_j, r_k(t_j))$ and $B(t_l, r_k(t_l))$ are disjoint. It follows that

$$1 = m(T) \geq \sum_{j=1}^{|T_k|} m(B(t_j, r_k(t_j))) \geq \frac{|T_k|}{N_k}.$$

Thus $|T_k| \leq N_k$, which implies that our construction stops after a finite number of steps. Clearly $N_0 = 1$ implies that $|T_0| = 1$. For each $t \in T$ there exists the smallest $l = l_0$ such that $t \in A_l$. By the construction we have $2(r_k(t) + r_k(t_{l_0})) > d(t, t_{l_0})$ and $r_k(t_{l_0}) \leq r_k(t)$, hence $d(t, T_k) < 4r_k(t)$.

To prove the last assertion we consider $x \in B(t_{l_0}, r_k(t_{l_0}))$ with $t_{l_0} \in T_k$. There exists the smallest $l = l_1$ such that $x \in A_l$; if $l_0 \leq l_1$ then $r_k(t_{l_0}) \leq r_k(t_{l_1}) \leq r_k(x)$, which ends the proof in this case. If $l_1 < l_0$, then $t_{l_0} \notin \bigcup_{j=1}^{l_1} A_j$ and so $d(t_{l_0}, t_{l_1}) \geq 2(r_k(t_{l_0}) + r_k(t_{l_1}))$. Consequently, by the triangle inequality,

$$2(r_k(t_{l_0}) + r_k(t_{l_1})) \leq d(t_{l_0}, t_{l_1}) \leq d(x, t_{l_1}) + d(x, t_{l_0}) \leq d(x, t_{l_1}) + r_k(t_{l_0}),$$

where the last inequality follows because $x \in B(t_{l_0}, r_k(t_{l_0}))$. On the other hand, $x \in A_{l_1}$, so

$$d(x, t_{l_1}) < 2(r_k(x) + r_k(t_{l_1})).$$

It follows that

$$2(r_k(t_{l_0}) + r_k(t_{l_1})) \leq d(x, t_{l_1}) + r_k(t_{l_0}) \leq 2(r_k(x) + r_k(t_{l_1})) + r_k(t_{l_0}),$$

and hence $r_k(t_{l_0}) \leq 2r_k(x)$ as desired. ■

Proof of Theorem 3. By Theorem 4 there exists an admissible net $\mathcal{T} = (T_k)_{k \geq 0}$ such that $d(t, T_k) \leq 4r_k(t)$. Consequently, Lemma 3 shows that for each $t \in T$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d(t, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) &\leq 4 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} r_k(t) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) \\ &\leq \frac{4c}{c-1} \int_0^{D(t, T)} \varphi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{m(B(t, \varepsilon))} \right) d\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\sup_{t \in T} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d(t, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) \leq \frac{4c}{c-1} \mathcal{M}(m, \varphi).$$

To show the second claim we first check that since $1/N_{k+1} \leq m(B(t, r_{k+1}(t)))$ and $d(t, T_k) \leq 4r_k(t)$ one can see that

$$(12) \quad \sum_{t \in T_{k+1}} \frac{d(t, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \leq 4 \sum_{t \in T_k} \int_{B(t, r_{k+1}(t))} r_k(t) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx).$$

By the Lipschitz property of r_k (Lemma 2) we derive that $r_k(t) \leq r_k(x) + r_{k+1}(t)$ for $x \in B(t, r_{k+1}(t))$. Therefore

$$\int_{B(t, r_{k+1}(t))} r_k(t) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx) \leq \int_{B(t, r_{k+1}(t))} (r_k(x) + r_{k+1}(t)) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx).$$

The last assertion in Theorem 4 implies that $r_{k+1}(t) \leq 2r_{k+1}(x)$ for any $t \in T_{k+1}$ and $x \in B(t, r_{k+1}(t))$. Hence

$$\int_{B(t, r_{k+1}(t))} r_k(t) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx) \leq \int_{B(t, r_{k+1}(t))} (r_k(x) + 2r_{k+1}(x)) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx).$$

Since $B(t, r_{k+1}(t))$ are disjoint for $t \in T_k$ (the second claim in Theorem 4), we derive

$$\sum_{t \in T_k} \int_{B(t, r_{k+1}(t))} r_k(t) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx) \leq 2 \int_T (r_k(x) + 2r_{k+1}(x)) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx).$$

Combining the above inequality with (12) and (3) (with $c > 2$) we deduce that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{d(t, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \leq 4 \int_T \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} r_k(x) \varphi^{-1}(N_k) m(dx).$$

It remains to use Lemma 3, which yields

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{d(t, T_k) \varphi^{-1}(N_k)}{N_{k+1}} \leq \frac{4c}{c-1} \overline{\mathcal{M}}(m, \varphi). \blacksquare$$

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Witold Bednorz
Department of Mathematics
University of Warsaw
Banacha 2
02-097 Warszawa, Poland
E-mail: wbednorz@mimuw.edu.pl

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